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Issue 1



UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE

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## UofL's First Annual Study Abroad Program in Panama

The College of Arts and Sciences and the Latin American Studies Program at UofL is sponsoring a new Study Abroad Program in Panamá, May 5, 2003 to June 3, 2003. Students will have the opportunity to take several classes taught by UofL professors Rhonda Buchanan, Program Director, Lisa Wagner, Assistant Director, and Julio Mosquera, the local Assistant Program Director. This year 37 students will participate in the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual UofL Study

Abroad Program in Panamá. Of the 37 students, 26 received scholarship support from a number of sources, including the Richard and Constance Lewis Travel Fund, the Richard and Constance Lewis Education Fund, and the Modern Languages Fund. Students will take classes at the University of Louisville's new campus in La Ciudad de Panamá, a modern facility located in the heart of the city. Oscar León, the President of the UofL

campus in Panamá, and Tammy Smith de León, the Administrative Dean, earned degrees in business from the University of Louisville in the 1980's. They and their friendly staff will be coordinating many activities for our students, such as visits to the Gamboa Rainforest, the Panamá Canal, and the Casco Viejo, the old section of the city, which includes a tour of the presidential palace. Each student will have a "host" family who will invite them to share family activities on the weekends and evenings. Other special features include Latin dance lessons every Thursday afternoon and a trip to the Decameron Beach Resort during our final weekend in Panamá. We invite those students who were not able to participate in the 2003 program to contact us about the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual UofL Program in Panamá which will be held in May of 2004.

*Participants of the 1st Annual UofL Study Abroad Program in Panama*



## The Richard and Constance Lewis Funds

Through the generous donation of Richard and Constance Lewis, the Latin American Studies Program has been able to offer scholarships to UofL students for study abroad programs and fellowships to faculty to support research projects conducted in foreign countries. In the Spring of 2001, two students were named the first Lewis Scholars and two faculty members were named the first Lewis Fellows. In the Spring of 2002, awards were given to thirteen Lewis Scholars and three Lewis Fellows. At the awards cere-

mony this April 24, 2003, twenty two students will receive Lewis Scholar Awards. We would like to thank the Lewises for their generosity, as well as the General Electric Company, which matches the Lewises' donations dollar for dollar. We would also like to express our gratitude to Dr. John Hale, Director of the Liberal Studies Program, and Dr. James Brennan, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, who have supported the Lewis Travel Fund with additional funds.

In addition to the Lewis

Travel Awards, the Lewises have donated funds for general operating expenses and sponsoring campus events. In 2002, the LAS Program sponsored the campus visit of the US Ambassador to Belize, George Bruno, the Argentine author Alicia Kozameh, the Ecuadorian professor Dr. Laura Hidalgo, who spoke about black communities in Ecuador, and a concert by the classical guitarist Terry Pazmino.

In 2002-2003, the LAS Program sponsored a number of events outlined in this newsletter.

## University of Louisville Lewis Scholars Study Abroad

In the Spring of 2002, thirteen University of Louisville undergraduates received Lewis scholarships to travel to either Latin America or Spain to study and experience the culture. Six students (David Baumann, Anita Damjanovic, Kyle Gaddie, Nadine Jacobsen, Joshua Tweddell, and Amy Vetter), spent summers, semesters, or an entire year in Spain. From Segovia to Madrid, from Barcelona to Salamanca, these students returned to the university with colorful stories of their experiences abroad. David Baumann, who is about to return to Louisville after a year of study in Salamanca, reports that his experience has been "amazing." Anita Damjanovic describes her explorations in Madrid and Barcelona: "Visiting castles, churches, and cathedrals from the 12th century, walking under the great Roman aqueduct from the first century, and standing in front of all the great art works in the museums of Madrid and Barcelona simply can't be experienced in the classroom!" Nadine Jacobsen agrees:

"There is no better way to learn the language and understand a country than to go there and immerse yourself in the culture!" Five students (Betsy Berns, Cheryl Chacko, Abby Crawford, Ashley Gray, and Natalie Kenner), studied in Morelia, Mexico, where they lived with Mexican families, took classes, and enjoyed various excursions on the weekends. The experience, Abby Crawford remarks, "was invaluable!" Cheryl Chacko agrees: all the "once-in-a-lifetime experiences made this opportunity unbelievable!" Erin Simpson, a graduate student in the Department of Political Science, studied in Cuba during the summer 2002. "It was an amazing opportunity," Simpson exclaims enthusiastically. Finally, Christopher Marlin traveled to Ecuador to study and experience Ecuadorian culture and politics.

*Joshua Tweddell (center) & David Baumann (right) in Spain, Summer 2002*

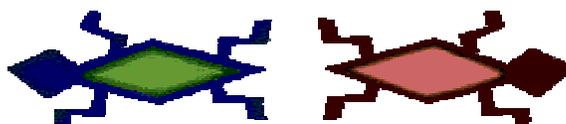


## University of Louisville Anthropologist, Dr. Lisa Markowitz, Attends Women's Conference in Cuba

Thanks to the Lewis Fellows Program, I was able to participate in an international conference, "Women on the Threshold of the XXI Century," hosted by the University of Havana's Women's Studies Program in November 2001. This gathering brought together scholars and activists from the Americas, Europe, and Africa whose work addressed a wide range of topics -- public policy, health, agriculture and the arts. I presented a paper on my research among women's organizations in Peru and wholly enjoyed the vigorous discussion of my panel's papers. Our hosts also organized cultural programs and workshops, which provided a terrific overview of the role of Cuban women in the country's economic and political transformations. Outside the meeting rooms, which were located on the lovely colonial campus, my introduction to Cuban society and its many contradictions continued as I explored the city, mostly on foot, sometimes in Coco-taxis, and once in a big 1950's Chevy!

## University of Louisville Lewis Fellow, Dr. Tricia Gray, Visits Cuba

As a Lewis Fellow, I attended a professional development seminar on "Contemporary Cuba," from June 9-19, 2002, organized by the Council on International Educational Exchange. The participants represented a wide range of nationalities and disciplines, including history, Spanish, business, political science, economics, and history. The seminar included a mixture of study tours and lectures presented by our counterparts at the University of Havana and the University of Santiago. The study tours included visits to the national fine arts museum, the Bay of Pigs museum, and monuments to the Revolution, as well as a tour of a cigar factory, and a musical performance by an Afro-Caribbean dance troupe. The seminar's itinerary included visits to Havana, Santa Clara, and Santiago, and an excursion to the Bay of Pigs. Since my return, I have been able to integrate my experiences and observations about Cuban society into my classes.



## Latin American Studies Sponsored Events 2002-2003

### **The Eighth Annual Latin American Film Festival**

In the Fall of 2002, the Latin American Studies Program and the Department of Classical and Modern Languages co-sponsored the Eighth Annual Latin American Film Festival. During this festival six films were presented from a variety of countries: Cuba, Brazil, Ecuador, Spain, Argentina, and Mexico. More than 80 individuals attended each of the showings. Before each film a member of the UofL faculty, or an invited guest, presented a short introduction. More discussion and refreshments followed each film.

### **"Globalization from Below" in Latin America: Rural Justice Tour"**

The Latin American Studies Program co-sponsored the campus visit of the Agricultural Missions' Rural Justice Tour on September 24, 2003, along with Agricultural Missions, the Department of Political Sciences, and the Louisville Peace and Justice Committee. To a large audience in Ekstrom Auditorium, Agricultural Missions Kentucky Liaison Stephen Bartlett and three representatives from rural social movements in Brazil, Mexico, and Venezuela explained their opposition to the hemispheric Free Trade Area of the Americas and associated regional initiatives, such as the Plan Puebla-Panama. Students from the "Introduction to Latin American Studies" class and other members of the university community had the opportunity to hear about these experiences and to debate the challenges of globalization with the speakers.

### **1<sup>st</sup> Annual Latin American Studies Heritage Lecture Presented by Mexican Writer Alberto Ruy Sánchez**

The 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Latin American Studies Heritage Lecture was presented by the renowned Mexican writer and director of *Artes de México*, Dr. Alberto Ruy Sánchez, on October 23, 2002 to a packed audience in Ekstrom Library Auditorium. Dr. Ruy Sánchez captivated the audience with his presentation on "The Multiple and Mysterious Values of Culture in Mexican Life," which was accompanied by images of unique aspects of Mexican culture that appear in the journal *Artes de México*. The author spoke about the importance of community in the Mexican society and also discussed the manner in which Mexicans celebrate the Day of the Dead. In addition, Dr. Ruy Sánchez visited a number of classes, including Dr. Chris Ehrick's Mexican History class and Dr. Rhonda Buchanan's Latin American Short Story class. Anyone interested in learning more about the author may visit his website at: [www.albertoruysanchez.com](http://www.albertoruysanchez.com).

### ***El Día de los Muertos* Comes to the Red Barn**

On November 1<sup>st</sup>, the Department of Classical and Modern Languages in collaboration with Latin American Studies, the International Center, and the Latin American Club of Louisville, mounted the UofL's second annual festival in celebration of Hispanic Heritage, commemorating the *El Día de los Muertos*, Mexico's folkloric celebration of the cycle of life and death. From 10am. to 2pm. university students, faculty and staff, and local high-school Spanish classes filled the Red Barn to celebrate and learn more about the *Día de los Muertos* by watching videos and participating in hands-on activities, such as painting sugar skulls and decorating the traditional altar. Savory dishes, such as empanadas, rice and beans, and the sweet bread known as *pan de muerto* were served. Meanwhile, Spanish classes collaborated with their teachers in presenting dramatic readings and the hair-raising final scene from Jose Zorrilla's *Don Juan Tenorio*, a play traditionally performed on November 1st throughout much of the Spanish-speaking world.

### **Visiting Professor Speaks on Gender Issues in Contemporary Argentina**

On November 15, 2002, Latin American Studies co-sponsored a lecture, "Gender Issues in Contemporary Argentina" by Dr. David William Foster, Professor of Latin American literature at Arizona State University. Foster, an internationally recognized scholar of Argentine culture and literature, has published more than 30 books and dozens of scholarly articles. During his stay in Louisville, Professor Foster visited several Spanish classes and spoke to students about contemporary Argentine culture.

### **Latin American Studies Co-sponsors Poetry Recital by Fernando Operé**

On February 28, 2003, Dr. Fernando Operé, Professor of Latin American Literature and Director of Latin American Studies Program at the University of Virginia, gave a dramatic poetry recital to a large audience in Ekstrom Library Auditorium. His recital, "*Pido la voz y la palabra*" was the Spanish keynote session for UofL's Annual 20<sup>th</sup> Century Literature Conference. Reciting from memory, the poet interpreted poems by the masters of Latin American and Spanish poetry, and also read from his own books of poetry. Professor Operé is also an actor and director and he shared his theatrical talents with the audience who attended the recital. On February 27, Dr. Operé gave an inspirational class on poetry to the students of Dr. Buchanan's Spanish 355 class.

### **Tres Vidas, Chamber Music Theater Production Comes to UofL**

The Latin American Studies Program was one of many co-sponsors that made possible the campus production of *Tres Vidas*, which was performed at the UofL Playhouse on Belknap campus on March 10, 2003, and organized by the UofL Study of Women & Global Issues Committee. The performance by the Core Ensemble, a trio of outstanding musicians, and featuring the talented actress and singer Georgina Corbo, who played the roles of Frida Kahlo, Rufina Amaya, and Alfonsina Storni, was highly praised by the diverse audience over 125 individuals. Many of the attendees from the University and Metro Louisville communities indicated that *Tres Vidas* was an extremely appropriate presentation for International Women's Day.

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## *Desde la encrucijada/ From the Crossroads*

¡Saludos amigos! This is the first issue of *Caminos*, which is meant to keep you informed about what's happening in the University of Louisville's Latin American Studies Program. I am writing to you "*desde la encrucijada*," from the crossroads of this new interdisciplinary program in which a variety of UofL programs with a common interest in Latin America intersect. In our newsletter we will include information about the Latin American Studies Minor, the events sponsored by the Latin American Studies Program, and our Study Abroad Program in Panamá. Please contact me at [rhondabuchanan@louisville.edu](mailto:rhondabuchanan@louisville.edu), if you have any suggestions, ideas, or information you would like to include in subsequent issues. An electronic version of the newsletter appears on our website: [www.louisville.edu/a-s/cml/las](http://www.louisville.edu/a-s/cml/las).

The Latin American Studies Program was initiated in the Fall of 2000 under the directorship of Dr. Joy Carew, Assistant to the Dean for International Programming. In July of 2002, I was named Director of Latin American Studies, and I look forward to playing an integral role in developing the program. The Latin American Studies Program offers a minor of 21 credit hours that allows students to enhance their major area of study with a specialized concentration in Latin America. This interdisciplinary program, housed within the Liberal Studies Program, offers students a wide range of course options that examine Latin American societies from the perspective of their history, culture, social, economical, and political structures. The LAS minor was approved and our first minors joined the program in the Fall of 2001. We have been growing steadily ever

since, and many of our minors have received Lewis Scholar Awards.

Have a great summer!

Rhonda Buchanan

